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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,256	06/19/2001	Akiko Hisasue	210004US2	9564

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1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

PARDO, THUY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

pre

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,256

Applicant(s)

HISASUE ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,12-15 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Abstract

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to for the improper use of parenthetical.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liu et al.** (Hereinafter "Liu") in "A methodology for improving on-time delivery and load leveling starts" in view of **Suzuki et al.** (Hereinafter "Suzuki") Pub-No: JP403117543A.

As to claim 1, Liu teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:

an estimated number in use calculating part to calculate, based on data of an operating manufacturing line, an estimated number in use of material including apparatus parts in a unit

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period of time [page 96 under “Safety Stock and Reservation”; page 97 under “Allocation Logic”];

a stock management part to manage stock of said material on data [fig. 1 and “Available to promises” on page 100].

However, Liu does not explicitly teach an order management part to output data on an ordering number of said material based on data of said estimated number in use from said estimated number in use calculating part and data of a current stock number of said material from said stock management part. Suzuki teaches an order management part to output data on an ordering number of said material based on data of said estimated number in use from said estimated number in use calculating part and data of a current stock number of said material from said stock management part [see the abstract and constitution].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to have modified the communication service system of Liu by incorporating the teachings of Suzuki in order to automatically update the stock number with the use of the production quantity in each stage and reduce stock confirming work and consumption calculation work.

As to claim 3, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that a storage part to store data of plural predetermined items about said material, wherein said stock management part performs stock management of said material by referring to said data stored in said storage part, and said order management part performs order management

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of said material by referring to said data stored in said storage part [pages 97-98, under “Phase I and II”].

As to claim 4, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that a storage part to store data of plural predetermined items about said material, wherein said material includes chemicals, said storage part further stores masters having plural management items including items needed in managing said apparatus parts and items needed in managing said chemicals, and said stock management part manages, per said material as a management object, by selecting a specific item from said plural management items [pages 97-98, under “Phase I and II”].

As to claim 5, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that said plural predetermined items include an item about storage place of said material [pages 97-98, under “Phase I and II”].

As to claim 6, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that said plural predetermined items include an item about expiration date of use of said material [inherent in the system in order to distribute items on-time, pages 97-98, under “Phase I and II”].

As to claim 7, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that said plural predetermined items include an item about expiration date of use of said

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material currently used within a processing apparatus [inherent in the system in order to distribute items on-time, pages 97-98, under "Phase I and II"].

As to claim 8, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that said plural predetermined items include an item indicating whether said material is currently a management object or not [pages 97-98, under "Phase I and II"].

As to claim 9, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches a display part to separately display on different screens, a stock management data of said material that is currently a management object and a stock management data of said material that is currently not a management object [pages 97-98 under "Phase I and II"].

As to claim 10, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches said plural predetermined items include an item indicating whether or not said material is a material usable by repetitive reproduction [inherent in the system].

As to claim 11, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches a display part to separately display, on different screens, an order data of said material to be purchased and an order data of said material to be reproduced [inherent in the system].

As to claim 16, Liu and Suzuki teach the invention substantially as claimed. Liu further teaches that said order management part outputs data of an ordering number of said material

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by converting the unit of said material adopted within said material management apparatus, into the unit of said material adopted by a manufacturer to which said material is ordered [page 99, under "Output reports"].

As to claim 17, all limitations of this claim have been addressed in the analysis in claim 1 above, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 12-15, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claim 2, the feature that said estimated number in use calculating part has a first operation part to calculate an endurance limit of said material based on data of the number of wafers processed in a unit period of time and data of the number of said material used in said unit period of time, and a second operation part to calculate said estimated number in use based on data of the number of wafers to be processed and data of said endurance limit from said first operation part, taken together with other limitations of claims 1 or 17 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claim 12, the feature that said order management part outputs data of said ordering number of said material based on data of said estimated number in use, data of said current

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stock number, and an upper limit value of an ordering number that is defined by a predetermined expression, taken together with other limitations of claim 1 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

Claims 13 and 14 being further limiting to claim 12 are also objected to.

As to claim 15, the feature that said order management part determines an order time of said material based on a predetermined expression using, as a parameter, an actual number used of said material in a unit period of time, a delivery time of said material. and said current stock number of said material, taken together with other limitations of claim 1 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1091. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows: (703) 872-9306 (Official Communication)

and/or:

(703) 746-5616 (*Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for*

"INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions).

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Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

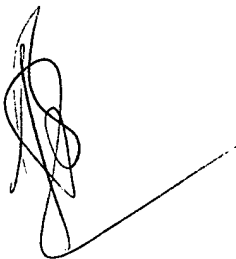
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or: (703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy Pardo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thuy Pardo
February 12, 2004